

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CU-02 NEA-10 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 MCT-01

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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6099

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

S E C R E T KUALA LUMPUR 0714

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, MY, BN, UK

SUBJECT: BRUNEI DEVELOPMENTS

REF: (A) 76 KUALA LUMPUR A-188, 12/21/76

1. SUMMARY. THE 21 BRUNEI STUDENTS WHO REPORTEDLY HAVE RETURNED TO KUALA LUMPUR FROM TERRORIST TRAINING IN LIBYA ARE UNDER POLICE SPECIAL BRANCH CONTROL. RESULTS OF SB'S REPORT TO PRIME MINISTER HUWWEIN ARE NOT KNOWN BUT A BRITISH SOURCE HAS TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT THE MALAYSIAN EXTERNAL INTELLIGENCE ORGAINZATION (MEIO), WHICH ALLEGEDLY SPONSORED THE TRAINING WITHOUT HUSSEIN'S KNOWLEDGE, IS TRYING TO MUDDY THE WATERS BY ACCUSING THE UK OF MISLEADING HUSSEIN. IN THE MEANTIME, TUN MUSTAPHA HAS BEEN SENT TO BANDAR SRI BEGWAN TO SEEK A MEETING BETWEEN THE PM AND THE BRUNEI ROYAL HOUSE AND OUR BRITISH SOURCE BELIEVES THEY MAY MEET SECRETLY IN LONDON IN JUNE.

END SUMMARY.

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2. A SENIOR OFFICER OF THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION HERE RECENTLY GAVE THE EMBASSY A RUNDOWN OF LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN BRUNEI-MALAYSIAN-UK RELATIONS. ACCORDING TO HIM, THE 31 BRUNEI STUDENTS MENTIONED IN REF AIRGRAM AS HAVING BEEN SENT TO LIBYA FOR TERRORIST TRAINING BY THE MEIO RETURNED IN DECEMBER AND ARE

BEING HELD IN SAFE HOUSES AND INTERROGATED BY THE POLICE SPECIAL BRANCH. A REPORT TO THE PRIME MINISTER REGARDING THEIR TRAVEL TO LIBYA, PARTICULARLY HOW THEY CAME TO HAVE BEEN GIVEN TERRORIST TRAINING WHEN MEIO SAYS THEY WERE SENT TO BE TRAINED AS MUSLIM MISSIONARIES, IS DUE ABOUT NOW. OUR SOURCE REPORTS THAT MEIO IS TRYING TO CONVINCE PRIME MINISTER HUSSEIN THAT IT SENT THE STUDENTS TO LIBYA FOR TRAINING AS MISSIONARIES IN GOOD FAITH. IT IS ALSO ATTEMPTING TO MUDDY THE WATERS BY ACCUSING THE BRITISH OF MISLEADING HUSSEIN WHEN LORD GORONMY-ROBERTS TOLD THE PM IN JANUARY 1976 THAT GOM PRESSURE ON BRUNEI MADE IT ONLY MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE UK TO GET THE SULTAN AND HIS FATHER (SIR OMAR) TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE. (SIR OMAR AND THE SULTAN DID NOT GO TO LONDON FOR TALKS LAST JUNE AS LONDON EXPECTED.)

3. IN THE MEANTIME, TWO EMMISSARIES HAVE BEEN SENT TO TRY TO OPEN A DIALOGUE BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER HUSSEIN AND THE BRUNEI ROYAL HOUSE. THE FIRST WAS THE RAJA MUDA OF JOHORE WHO VISITED BRUNEI LAST NOVEMBER AT A TIME WHEN THE SULTAN AND SIR OMAR HAD JUST LEARNED ABOUT THE 32 STUDENTS BUT BEFORE THE BRITISH HAD BEEN TOLD BY DATUK HUSSEIN THAT THE STUDENTS HAD BEEN SENT WIHOUT HIS KNOWLEDGE. THE SECOND WAS FORMER SABAH STRONGMAN TUN MUSATAPHA WHO WAS IN BANDAR SRI BEGAWAN JANUARY 4 AND 5, 1977. HOME MINISTER TAN SRI GHAZALI SHAFIE TOLD THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER THAT IT WAS HIS IDEA TO SEND MUSTAPHA, WITH WHOM HE HAS A LONG POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP, TO POINT OUT TO THE SULTAN THAT
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"HUSSEIN'S HANDS ARE CLEAN" (THE MALAYSIAN HANKY-PANKY IN AND AROUND AROUND BRUNEI WAS INITIATED UNDER THE LATE TUN RAZAK) AND TO SUGGEST A MEETING. THE JOHORE PRINCE WAS RECEIVED COOLY BUT MUSTAPHA WAS GIVEN COURTEOUS TREATMENT, INCLUDING A ROYAL LIMOUSINE, AND THE SULTAN AND SIR OMAR AGREED TO CONSIDER HIS PROPOSAL. IN ADDITION, LOW LEVEL EXCHANGES HAVE BEEN INITIATED BETWEEN PRIVATE BRUNEIANS AND SARAWAKIANS WITH THE BLESSING OF SARAWAK CHIEF MINISTER RAHMAN YAAKUB, ONE OF THE PERSONS CLOSEST TO THE ANTI-BRUNEI PLOTTING.

4. OUR BRITISH SOURCE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE SULTAN AND SIR OMAR WILL SHOW UP IN LONDON THIS SUMMER TO DISCUSS A LOOSENING OF THE BRITISH TIE (PARTICULARLY THE REMOVAL OF THE GHURKAS) AND THE DATUK HUSSEIN WILL MEET HIS THERE, PROBABLY SECRETLY. WE NOTE THAT THE QUEEN'S SILVER JUBILEE BANQUET FOR COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT IS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 8, 1977.
DILLON

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